



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ricki Gardenhire  
502-564-5525

### **West Jessamine County Middle School Student Wins EEC 'Capture the Earth' Photography Contest** *Takes home gift certificate from Department of Parks*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (June 4, 2014) – West Jessamine Middle School student Christina Howard, 15, is the winner of the fourth annual 'Capture the Earth' Photography Contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC).

During a promotion ceremony last night at West Jessamine High School, EEC Secretary Len Peters presented Howard with a Kentucky State Parks gift card for her family to redeem at the state resort park of her choice and a framed copy of her winning photograph.

"It is with great pleasure that I present this award to Christina for her wonderful photograph. I enjoy meeting the state's young people and encouraging them to be involved in protecting our environment and using their individual skills to make more people aware that, as individuals, we can all help in some way," said Peters. "Presenting this award is one highlight of the spring season and I congratulate Christina and encourage her to continue the art of photography."

Howard photographed a red apple dangling from its tree; the apple was wet from a recent rain shower. "I love taking photos," she said. "When I see the moment to capture and cherish for a lifetime is just a click away, it still amazes me today!"

"We are pleased to support the Capture the Earth Photography Contest and hope Christina Howard uses her gift card to capture some of the beauty found at our Kentucky State Parks," said Parks Commissioner Elaine Walker.

The annual 'Capture the Earth' photography contest was initiated in 2011 with 27 entries and has attracted an increasing number of submissions each year. This year's competition attracted more than 80 entries from middle school students across Kentucky.

**Photos attached:** The first photo is Christina's winning photograph of an apple; the second shows EEC Secretary Len Peters and West Jessamine Middle School student Christina Howard with her winning photograph.



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